

One of the greatest enemies to bird life in New England is to be found in the Italians, who during the last ten years have so numerously settled in the cities and larger towns. Throughout the whole year they roam over the country armed with cheap guns, shooting birds of all sizes, from the Kinglet up. Two police officers recently arrested two of these men who were in the outlying part of Springfield engaged in this illegal work. In their possession were found nearly fifty birds, the taking of which was unlawful. Among the kinds they had, I noted the Catbird, Robin, Rusty Grackle, White-throated and Song Sparrows, Olive-backed Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Flicker and Downy Woodpecker.

September 1, a Least Bittern (*Botaurus exilis*) was taken here, and October 16, a Yellow Rail (*Porzana noveboracensis*). I have never known of the presence of the latter bird here before, and there is but one record of the capture of the former in this part of the Connecticut River valley. — ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

North American Bird Notes from Costa Rica.—*Tringa bairdi*.—Two specimens of Baird's Sandpiper were taken and a number of others seen June 8 on the Volcano of Irazú, above Tierra Blanca, at about 1500 meters altitude. The birds seemed to be at home and I have wondered whether it is possible they breed there. The genital organs indicated approaching activity.

Tachycineta thalassina. — While collecting at the mouth of the Matina River (Atlantic coast) in the latter part of March I found the Violet-green Swallow not uncommon in company with *T. albilinea*. Perfect friendship seemed to exist between the two species. *T. albilinea* was breeding commonly but in none of the specimens of *thalassina* secured did the ovaries indicate approaching activity. *T. thalassina* has also been taken on the Pacific side of Costa Rica at Bebedero. There is a single specimen from that locality in the collection of the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica.

I believe this brings the record several hundred miles southward for *T. thalassina*. — GEO. K. CHERRIE, *Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, Ill.*

Notes on the Summer Birds of Central Berkshire County, Mass. — The publication, in 1884, of Mr. W. Brewster's 'Notes on the Summer Birds of Berkshire County, Mass.' (*Auk*, Vol. 1, pp. 5-16), established the Canadian character of the avifauna of northern Berkshire. The lists published by Mr. W. Faxon (*Auk*, Vol. VI, pp. 39, 99), present a very full account of the distribution of the birds on Graylock, and give in addition an account of the birds of the southern end of the county. Attention has not yet been called, I believe, to the very general distribution of certain northern birds throughout the central part of Berkshire County, particularly in the eastern half, so that the following notes, made in the summers of 1892 and 1893, may be of interest.